MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 OCTOBER 1980

American Hostages

Tehran radio reported that the open session of the Majlis scheduled for 30 October to discuss the hostages issue was postponed for lack of a quorum and that the next session will be convened on 2 November. According to the radio, the lack of a quorum resulted in an "uproar" and "protests" by some deputies who accused members not in attendance of trying to delay the debate on the hostages. Before adjourning the meeting, Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, noting a missile attack on Dezful, accused the United States of having a "hand" in the war and in "provocations" in the region, but he declared that "the issue of the hostages has nothing to do with the Iran-Iraq war, and the Americans should keep in mind that these last-ditch actions and improper interferences relating to the destiny of the nation will not remain unanswered or without response."

According to a Stockholm radio correspondent, Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali said "we want the hostages to be freed before the presidential elections." Khalkhali noted that there are others in addition to the moderates who want the hostages released before 4 November because they believe that in that time frame Iran could obtain more in exchange for them. Agreeing with that assumption, Khalkhali declared that "Carter is generous now." He further said that the Majlis will add one condition to those set by Ayatollah Khomeyni: that the United States deliver the weapons and spare parts to Iran that it has already paid for. He stated: "We need spare parts now, and, with regard to international relations, Carter must give them, just as the Soviet Union is giving Iraq decisive aid."

In an interview with the Beirut paper AS-SAFIR, reported by KUNA, Khalkhali claimed that because President Carter is running for reelection he is "ready to give us all the spare parts we need" in exchange for a resolution of the hostages issue, and he added that Iran will go along with this since it is in its interest. He went on to note, however, that Iran could manage for 10 years on its own "potential."

Iraq-Iran Conflict

Speaking at a press conference in Amman, reported by Amman radio, Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi said that Iraq, in order to "regain its Arab identity," has "specific targets" in the area it has already "liberated" from Iranian control, and he reiterated that the war will end as soon as Iran agrees to respect Iraqi sovereignty over the disputed territory and waters and to establish good-neighbor relations. Hammadi stated that Iraq cannot confirm that the United States has not been supplying Iran but that this does not mean that "absolutely nothing has happened." He again warned that if it is proven that the United States is "biased" in Iran's favor, Iraq would not stand by "with hands tied."

Hammadi also said Jordan is not participating militarily in the war against Iran because Iraq does not need such assistance. However, in a dispatch from Tehran citing "reliable" non-Iranian sources, LE MONDE correspondent Eric Rouleau reported that during his recent visit to Baghdad King Husayn proposed that Jordanian troops be sent to Iraqi Kurdistan to free Iraqi Army units tied down by Kurdish guerrillas, especially in the regions of Kirkuk, As-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil. Rouleau also said that Iraq apparently does not have the troop strength to "rapidly end the stagnation" on the various fronts, and he noted in particular that it appears to need reinforcements in Qasr-e Shirin, which is threatened by Iranian forces holding the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab heights overlooking the area. Tehran radio reported that Iranian forces have pushed back Iraqi troops on the Qasr-e Shirin front, have maintained the "initiative" in fighting in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab district and on the Kan-e Shahr, Shur-e Shirin, Sumar and Zardeh fronts and have recaptured the Tang-e Hajian junction in Gilan-e Gharb. The radio also said Iraqi forces tried to open a new front in the Seyyed Sadeq region but were forced to retreat, as were enemy units in Ilam Province. Iranian Joint Staff communiques, carried by Tehran radio, announced that Iranian troops made a "bold assault" in the Susangerd front and that the enemy suffered heavy damage on the Allaho Akbar heights and in Dasht-e Azadegan.

Reporting on the fighting in Khuninshahr (formerly Khorramshahr), Tehran radio claimed that the Iranian forces stationed on the eastern side of the Karun River bridge continue to prevent the Iraqis from crossing and that Iranian fire has silenced Iraqi batteries on the western side. The radio also reported Iraqi mortar and artillery bombardment of Abadan and Iranian successes in clashes on the Abadan-Ahvaz and Abadan-Mahshahr axes. According to Delhi radio, Iraqi forces have launched a thrust toward Bandar-e Shahpur. The radio said a tank column is moving toward the port and that the city has been subjected to heavy Iraqi bombing. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses, announced that Iranian planes attacked Maysan and that the Iraqi Air Force flew sorties over Dasht-e Abi and Kut 'Abdollah in the southern Ahvaz sector and over the Gilan area. An Iranian Joint Staff communique, carried by Tehran radio, reported that two Iraqi Tupolev bombers had been shot down, one in Najafabad and the other near Qom.

Libya

According to Riyadh radio, troops in Tobruk and 'Uqbah ibn Nafi' have been in a "state of rebellion" in solidarity with students and workers as a result of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's "stance against the Islamic religion and its sanctities." The radio was referring to Al-Qadhdhafi's 19 October call for a jihad to "liberate" Mecca from "American occupation" and his assertion that American aircraft disturbed hajj prayers on Mount 'Arafat. Riyadh also said that Al-Qadhdhafi's comments have led to "differences" within the General People's Congress that caused him to cancel foreign visits and remain in the country. Amman radio had earlier reported that Al-Qadhdhafi had postponed a scheduled 28 October visit to Damascus to work out the details of the Libya-Syria merger.

The Riyadh report further noted that "signs of emergency" prevail in Libyan towns, where police have taken to patrolling the streets to suppress people who have begun to "move in an organized manner" to confront the Al-Qadhdhafi regime. The radio also cited Eritrean sources as reporting that Soviet and Cuban units stationed in Ethiopia have been sent to Libya to rescue the Al-Qadhdhafi government.

Saudi Arabia

Riyadh Radio reported that Saudi Arabia has expressed "astonishment" at a statement attributed to President Carter in which he is alleged to have declared his refusal to supply the kingdom with "additional equipment" for F-15 aircraft. Riyadh said this statement came at a time when a "positive dialogue and negotiations" were taking place on this matter. According to the radio, an official Saudi source said the kingdom will wait until after the U.S. presidential election to ascertain the "final attitude" of the U.S. Government on this issue and pointed out that if Saudi Arabia does not receive a response it is "possible" that it will "knock on all doors" to obtain what is necessary to defend the country. The official also noted that Saudi Arabia's friendly relations are not confined to any one country.

Egypt, Israel

MENA reported a joint press conference held by Presidents Anwar as-Sadat and Yitzhaq Navon after completing a second round of talks on 29 October. As-Sadat said the two had discussed the autonomy question and the process of normalization of relations. Neither leader gave details of the talks on autonomy, but As-Sadat stated that they had agreed to give a "bigger boost to the process of full autonomy." Navon added that they had discussed only the "general outline" of the question. On the question of normalization of relations, President Navon announced that it was agreed to open the border at Al-'Arish for the overland transportation of goods, to have each country hold exhibitions to display products from its industrial, agricultural and educational sectors and to set up a joint committee comprised of authors, social scientists, educators and psychologists to study ways to "bolster peace." He also reported that President as-Sadat decided to convene the Cabinet in the near future to ratify bilateral agreements on civil aviation, culture and trade and that the Egyptians agreed to receive an Israeli delegation to deal with the problem of Israeli soldiers missing in action in the 1967 and 1973 wars. As-Sadat added that the two talked about future road and railway communications between the two countries, and Navon noted that the question of tourist access to St. Catherine monastery had been discussed and that the procedures will remain the same. As-Sadat promised to call for an "urgent" meeting of the Egyptian-Israeli joint committee to meet in either Al-'Arish or Beersheba to iron out the details of what had been agreed upon.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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POLITBURO MEMBERS ATTEND KABUL PROPAGANDA SEMINAR

LD292122 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Oct80

[Text] The seminar of political propagandists and lecturers of the party organization of Kabul city and province was inaugurated this afternoon in the auditorium of the Kabul Polytechnic Institute. The purpose of this seminar is to develop propaganda work among the classes and strata of society and to explain the PDPA manifesto and the importance of organizing propaganda groups within the party.

The following officials took part in the seminar: Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray and Nur Ahmad Nur, secretaries and members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo; Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of the party Central Committee Politburo and minister of training and education; Lt Gen Mohammad Rafi', member of the party Central Committee and minister of national defense; Shah Mohammad Dost, member of the party Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs; and some high-ranking party cadres.

Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray began the seminar by talking about the historic friendly relations between the DRA and the USSR and the aid which that country has extended to Afghanistan from 1919 onward. He explained the political, economic and social situation of the country throughout this period and the success of the Sawr Revolution. He positively appraised the results of the visit of the high-ranking DRA party and government delegation, which was led by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and DRA prime minister, to the USSR.

Dr Ziray described the official and friendly visit of Babrak Karmal, the general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and DRA prime minister, to the USSR as an event which has attracted the attention of international political and social circles in recent days. Both the enemies and friends of revolutionary Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are deeply evaluating with great interest the results of this visit and the discussions and meetings between Babrak Karmal and his entourage with Soviet leaders.

It should be mentioned that this visit has once again provided possibilities for the further strengthening of the fraternal and friendly relations between the DRA and the USSR to the benefit of the people of both countries. It has opened a new page in the relations between the countries.

Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray said in another part of his speech that the visit of Babrak Karmal to the USSR was not just a decisive blow to those who exaggerate the situation in our country and who want to magnify the so-called Afghan issue but was of great importance because of its international implications.

Simarily, Lt Gen Mohammad Rafi', the minister of national defense, talked about the gains of the Sawr Revolution in the light of the Third Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee. He also said that the fraternal assistance of the USSR and the support of the progressive countries of the world, as well as the initiatives of the DRA party and government, have provided the possibilities for the armed forces and security organs to strengthen the social arrangements in our country and to eliminate the enemies of the Sawr Revolution. At present, we can say with assurance that the blows to rebel groups, aggressors and their mercenaries are invaluable. General Rafi' added that the high morale and fighting ability of soldiers, NCO's and, most of all, of officers, ensures that they will accomplish their duties bravely and alertly. There are many examples in history which illustrate that despite the fact that some powers are weaker in terms of arms and personnel, they nevertheless, by having full commitment and loyalty to the goals for which they fight, can succeed, (?particularly) when they possess creative personnel, heroism and valor even if they are fighting against a very strong enemy.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the seminar was also attended by the head of the party Central Committee department for propaganda, teaching and learning, the secretary of the Kabul provincial party committee and the deputy head of the Kabul city party committee. These officials spoke at the seminar about the duties of the political propagandists and their role in the policy of the PDPA. They also spoke about the experience of the Kabul provincial party organizations in implementing the resolutions of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, the methods of preparing and arranging talks for the purpose of propagation, popularization and explanation of the policy of the PDPA and its implementation. A film was also shown at the end of this seminar.

KPL: BABRAK KARMAL THANKS SOUPHANOUVONG FOR GREETINGS

BK301130 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] Vientiane, 30 Oct (KPL)--President Souphanouvong of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on October 27 received a message from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Executive Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

The Afghan leader thanked President Souphanouvong for his message sent on the occasion of the presidential plane flying over the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. I am convinced that the fraternal friendship and solidarity between our two peoples and countries will be further expanded, the message concluded.

NUR AHMAD NUR RECEIVES BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR

LD291959 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and member of the Presidium of the Revolution Council, yesterday received Mladen Nikolov Mladenov, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, at the headquarters of the Revolution Council for a courtesy visit.

ARIAN RECEIVES CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR

LD291958 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] 'Abdorrashid Arian, deputy prime minister, minister of justice and the attorney general today received CSSR Ambassador Zdenek Karmelita at the palace of the prime ministry. They talked about matters of mutual interest and exchanged views.

HEALTH MINISTER 'AZIM MEETS CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR

GF291435 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] Dr Mohammad Ebrahim 'Azim, minister of public health, met yesterday with the CSSR ambassador in Kabul, Dr Zdenek Karmelite. Matters relating to cooperation between the DRA Ministry of Public Health and the CSSR in the medical field were discussed.

AFP: KHALQ, PARCHAM FACTIONS IN STATE OF 'ARMED PEACE'

OW292333 Paris AFP in English 2247 GMT 29 Oct 80

[By Yves Heller]

[Text] Kabul, 29 Oct (AFP)--Relations between the two factions of the Afghan Communist Party--the ruling Afghan People's Democratic Party (PDPA)--seem at present best described as "a state of armed peace."

The factions are the Khalq (People), once led by the late Presidents Nur Mohamed Taraki and Hafizollah Amin--both assassinated in coups--which overthrew President Mohamed Daud in April 1978, and the Parcham (Flag) led by President Babrak Karmal, who came to power last December 27. Parcham was founded officially by Mr Karmal in 1966 after the banning of Mr Taraki's newspaper, KHALQ, which held to a Third World, neutralist and revolutionary line. Mr Karmal's newspaper, PARCHAM, backed a "national front" of all "progressive forces."

The two factions, in principle at least, are supposed to share key posts in the government administration and army--where Khalq was well entrenched--as they are united in the ruling PDPA, but in fact, Parcham holds almost all of them. For this reason, young Parcham cadres do not hide, in private, the "distrust" which pervades the daily relations between the militants of the two factions. It is so bad that some Parcham followers are even suspicious of any Afghan speaking with a Pashto accent, for most Khalq supporters come from the Pashtunistan region of eastern Afghanistan and Pakistan.

One young Parcham supporter who is a member of the PDPA Central Committee bitterly admits, without trying to hide his feelings, that he would like to see the expulsion of all Khalq ministers from the government. He mentioned a rumour here, which coincided with the recent official visit to Moscow of President Babrak Karmal, of an imminent Afghan Government reshuffle. Parcham supporters remember that some of the present Khalq ministers were also members of the Taraki and Amin Khalq regimes, both of which tried to wipe out the Parcham faction--which in turn, after the December 27 coup, retaliated by attempting to liquidate Khalq. Many Khalq supporters are at present in Pol-e Charkhi Prison, 15 km (10 miles) east of here, but the actual total is unknown.

The present interior minister, Mohammad Golabzoy (Khalq), is described by Parcham men as "the most hated man in Afghanistan," together with former vice-premier Asadollah Sarwari, who led the Amin regime's secret police. Mr Sarwari is at present Afghan ambassador in Mongolia. "The PDPA leaders who are the most heavily armed and protect themselves the most are the Khalq supporters," according to a Parcham source, but in fact, all PDPA leaders and militants always go about armed. A senior Parcham leader close to President Karmal gave me a lift in his car and inside there were two Kalashnikov assault rifles as well as the pistols carried by his driver, bodyguards and himself.

There is very little substantial ideological difference between the two factions, but Parcham accuses the Khalqis, among other things, of carrying out a policy of Pol-Potization"--after the name of Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot--in Afghanistan when it was in power. Parcham accuses Khalq of deliberately carrying out savage reforms aimed at disrupting the social order without any transition period. As examples of "Pol-Potisation," Parcham sources give land reform, started by the Taraki regime by abrupt redistributions, and certain reforms giving women more rights, frowned on in the country's tribal society. Parcham wants to show more "understanding" in the belief that far-reaching reforms can be carried out only with moderation. It has taken many precautions, especially over its religious policies, and President Karmal and many of his ministers regularly go to the mosque.

Militants of each faction are recruited from different classes. The Khalqis mainly come from the countryside or from the provincial bourgeoisie, many of them are schoolteachers; Parcham supporters come from the upper class and include intellectuals, lawyers and doctors. My Parcham "interpreter-guide," who was born in Kabul, studied economics in France, where he was a member of the French Communist Party. While Parcham sources officially reject all talk of "settling accounts" with Khalq supporters, they agree that a Khalq cadre will get a higher post mainly because this gives him a measure of security he would not have otherwise. Since Mr Sarwari was sent to Mongolia there are only three Khalq ministers in the government. Meanwhile, ministries are constantly losing their Khalq cadres, and in the first months of the Karmal regime there was a purge of officers and NCO's in the army.

One example of ambiguity in relations between the two factions is the whole truth about the December 27 coup and the exact way in which President Amin was killed, because this would compromise Khalq followers holding official posts, a Parcham source told AFP. Privately, Parcham sources accuse some Khalq followers of embezzling large sums of public money, but there is no question of recovering them for the same reason, as this would embarrass them. In any case, "they (the Khalqs) can do nothing against us," a Parcham leader told AFP--just when most of the PDPA leadership was in Moscow with visiting President Karmal.

USSR DONATES GOODS FOR BADAKHSHAN RELIEF

GF271158 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 27 Oct 80

[Text] A representative of the Import-Export Department of the Soviet Union has donated consumer goods to the head of [words indistinct]. These goods are worth 11 million Afghan rupees. The goods consist of flour, rice, butter, sugar, salt, kerosene, oil, soap and other essential goods. This aid will be distributed among the calamity-stricken people of Badakhshan.

SUCCESS AGAINST BAGHLAN PROVINCE REBELS REPORTED

LD291652 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] On the basis of the brave actions of the armed forces and party activists and with the sincere cooperation of the noble people of Baghlan Province, a large number of terrorist bands and the hirelings of international imperialism have been eliminated and a number of them arrested.

According to a report from Baghlan Province, the security forces have seized a large number of American, Chinese and Pakistani arms from these terrorist bands. Similarly, some ammunition and goods that were looted by these thieves and highway robbers have been captured from them by the security forces and party activists.

Some noble people of Baghlan Province, which includes patriots, clergy, and government officials who were imprisoned by these rebels, were released after an armed encounter.

A relevant source said that the rebels that were eliminated by the Baghlan Province security forces, party activists and by the brave people (?of Baghlan) included their leaders Serwar and Jamil. Similarly, a terrorist connected to the band of rebels, (Juranemaihan) was also eliminated in this encounter.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON VISIT OF SPAHI, TRADE UNIONISTS TO CSSR

For a Prague PRACE report on the communique issued on the 16-21 October visit to Czechoslovakia of Hassan Spahi, secretary of the Presidium of the Central Council of Trade Unions of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, see the Czechoslovakia section of the 30 October Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT, page D 7.

GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO MEDIATE SOLUTION TO IRAN-IRAQ WAR

Nonaligned Committee Membership

BK251617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Oct 80

[Text] A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that India would be willing to join the proposed nonaligned committee which will attempt to end the hostilities between Iran and Iraq. Replying to queries, the spokesman said the proposal made by the Palestinian Liberation Organization to send a team of foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries to Tehran and Baghdad has ultimately crystallized following the discussions India had with like-minded nonaligned countries.

According to the latest information available, the composition of the committee and mechanics of its working are still under discussions. Informed sources say the committee will consist of eight countries and the PLO. These are Cuba, Algeria, Madagascar, Zambia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Yugoslavia. The sources added whether the committee consists of six or nine members, India would be one of them.

Committee Acceptable to Iran, Iraq

BK291613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] India has received information that the nonaligned peace committee is acceptable to both Iran and Iraq and they are prepared to receive the committee in their capitals.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the terms of reference of the committee and how it would go about its mission are still being discussed. The spokesman listed various initiatives taken by India to bring about an early end to the Gulf war. He said these ultimately led to the crystallization of the PLO proposal for setting up the peace committee.

Rao: Warring States Want Peace

BK291612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] India will actively participate in the nonaligned countries' new move to restore peace in wartorn Iraq and Iran. This was stated by External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao while speaking at a meeting of the parliamentary consultative committee attached to his ministry in New Delhi today.

Rao said this in a special reference to the formation of the nonaligned peace committee yesterday to end the conflict. The members generally welcomed the nonaligned initiative and expressed satisfaction at India's inclusion in the committee. They pointed out that India has real and tangible interests which might be affected seriously if the conflict continues.

The External Affairs Minister said that Iran and Iraq also are open to suggestions for a practical and peaceful end to the 5-week old conflict. Giving the impressions he gained during the recent talks in the United Nations, Rao said Tehran and Baghdad are willing to tne the conflict. This impression is strengthened by the report given by secretary of the External Affairs Minister Romesh Bhandari who had talks with the Iraqi leaders earlier this week.

Rao said if the conflict between Iran and Iraq is not localized and resolved quickly, it will have serious implications for the security and stability of the region. This might encourage great power rivalry and increase tension in the region. The minister said the great powers are neutral at this stage but one cannot be sure how long they would remain uninvolved if the conflict continues.

Narasimha Rao also told the members about the conference on the Indian Ocean to be held in Sri Lanka next year. He said there had been growing anxiety among the littoral states about increasing militarization of the Indian Ocean. He reiterated India's objective of marking it a zone of peace as outlines in the UN resolution.

WPC Supports Government Initiative

BK300401 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] The World Peace Council has supported India's efforts along with the nonaligned movement to end the Iran-Iraq conflict and for a peaceful settlement. The council's president, Romesh Chandra, told newsmen in New Delhi that the majority of the countries in the world believe that India can play a significant role in the cause of world peace in the present situation.

Indians in Iraq Repatriated

BK300357 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] Nearly 8,000 Indians who were working in Iraq have returned home after the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq conflict. External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao gave this information to the consultative committee of Parliament for his ministry. The total number of Indians in Iraq is about 16,000. Rao assured the committee that all arrangements for repatriation of Indians who wanted to come back have been made.

RAMGOOLAM COMPLETES VISIT, ADAMANT ON RETURN OF DIEGO GARCIA

BK300753 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] Prime Minister of Mauritius Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam said in New Delhi today that the British government's reported refusal to restore the strategic Indian Oceans island of Deigo Garcia to his country is unreasonable. He was commenting on newspaper reports quoting a British Foreign Office spokesman in London as having stated that Deigo Garcia was detached from Mauritius in 1965 with the concurrence of its government.

Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam categorically said: There is no written agreement on this; only a statement was made in the Mauritius Parliament at that time. Britain, he said, had recognized his country's sovereignity over Deigo Garcia.

Sir Seewoosagur, who left New Delhi this morning for Bombay on his way back home after a 3-day official visit, said: Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi is in full agreement with us on the issue. He described his talks with Indian leaders as most friendly and said India and Mauritius have common objectives of peace and detente as also of economic development along the socialist pattern.

Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi also expressed satisfaction over her talks with Sir Seewoosagur. She said their discussions touched all matters of mutual interest including the current world situation. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam was seen off at the airport by the prime minister, some of her Cabinet colleagues and senior officials.

CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HOLDS TALKS IN DELHI

PY281623 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Oct 80

[Text] Javiet Illanes, director general of the Chilean Foreign Ministry, has met with (Robin Taten), Indian assistant secretary for foreign affairs. Illanes is now in New Delhi heading a Chilean official mission which has just visited Beijing. At this meeting, Illanes and his Indian counterpart discussed Chilean-Indian bilateral relations and ways of intensifying trade, scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

(Taten) conveyed to Illanes his country's decision to intensify its assistance to all Latin American countries. He also briefed Illanes on the Indian position on Kampuchea, Afghanistan and the Iraqi-Iranian war. New Delhi trusts that the Persian Gulf conflict will be solved soon without risking the involvement of third countries. Illanes also met with (Beher Llagosas), legal adviser of the Indian Foreign Ministry, with whom he discussed the development and prospects of the UN Law of the Sea Conference.

STATESMAN COMMENTS ON GANDHI'S FIRST CABINET SHUFFLE

BK300441 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 21 Oct 80 p 8

[Editorial: "Search for Talent"]

[Text] Even the surprises in the list of 11 new ministers are not of sufficient significance to make much difference to the style of Mrs Gandhi's government. The absence of some expected names will cause no grief, but while separation of health and family welfare suggests renewed recognition of the importance of population control, it is curious that labour should be merged with planning at a time when both industrial relations and the sixth plan deserve close attention. No less surprising is Mrs Gandhi's decision to accommodate Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad who reportedly refused to be sworn in last January, while deteriorating relations in the Lok Sabha surely called for a separate incumbent in charge of parliamentary affairs on the eve of what is expected to be a controversial winter session. Another change--Mr C.P.N. Singh's transfer from defence to science and technology--could be as much a result of the sales of Centurion spares as a warning to the Youth Congress; the latter seems the more plausible since no inductions have been made from this once influential wing of the party.

On the whole, however, there is little to say for or against the six additional ministers of state and four deputy ministers. The changes do not add up to any coherent shift of emphasis and the major portfolios, including the prime minister's additional responsibility for defence, remain in the same hands. The only new incumbent of note is Mr S.B. Chavan who takes over education which certainly needs to be salvaged from neglect, but former Maharashtra chief minister's inclusion with Cabinet rank could be due less to a desire to strengthen the centre than to appease a state where Mr Sharad Pawar seems to be making some headway. This calculation might also explain Mr Shivraj V. Patil's appointment in the Defence Ministry and Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha's removal to Labour, which leaves Mr Vasant Sathe in undisputed control of his former charge. In making these additions and alterations, Mrs Gandhi has presumably tried to lighten the load of some of her colleagues, give weight to seniority, experience and political commitment, and also to streamline the ruling party's organization by appointing three new secretaries, bringing the total to six, but she has done little to remove the complaint that the government often seems unable to come to grips with major and pressing problems.

Some of these--the rising price of oil compounded by the Iran-Iraq war for instance--obviously lie beyond New Delhi's control, but that is all the more reason for a team of proven ability which can respond positively to the prime minister's initiatives. Mrs Gandhi's awareness of the gap between her and her colleagues is reflected in her frequent exhortations to them to improve performance. If members of the existing council were not able to live up to her demands, there is little likelihood that new and not particularly distinguished entrants will do much better. This does say something about the calibre of politicians who nowadays gain a foothold on the Congress-I's higher rungs, and on whom the prime minister has perforce to rely.

MAJLIS FAILS TO DISCUSS U.S. HOSTAGE ISSUE

Discussion Set for 30 Oct

JN291745 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1737 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] In a brief statement to the PARS correspondent following the Islamic Majlis' closed session which was dedicated to looking into the issue of the hostages, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani announced that the Majlis members' discussion of the conditions for the release of the hostages will take place at an open session of the Islamic Majlis tomorrow, Thursday.

Majlis Appeal

LD292147 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2110 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] According to a PARS report, the public relations office of the Islamic Consultative Assembly has announced: At 0800 tomorrow morning the Majlis will hold an open session and it is essential that all deputies attend.

According to a PARS report, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, following today's closed session connected with an investigation into the situation of the hostages, in a brief interview with the PARS parliamentary correspondent, said: Discussions pertaining to the conditions for the release of the hostages will take place during tomorrow's open session.

Lack of Quorum

LD301148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] Today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, which was scheduled to consider the issue of the American hostages, was not held owing to a lack of quorum, and the next session was set for 0800 Sunday, 2 November. According to a report by a Central News Bureau correspondent, during today's session, the convening of which had been set for 0800, only 162 of the deputies were present and the remaining 18 deputies, whose presence would have constituted a quorum, had either not come to the Majlis or else did not enter the hall. This itself created some uproar and protests by a group of deputies. A group of deputies believed that those who had absented themselves from today's session were trying, through absence from the Majlis session, to postpone the debate on the issue of the hostages. Following protests by some of the deputies regarding the absence of the opposition from the debate on the hostages, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khalkhali went to the rostrum and said: If these gentlemen have something to say and are opposed to any issue they should come into the Majlis and say what they have to say and not deprive the Majlis of a quorum by their absence.

At this point, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani said: Because of the absence of a number of deputies, the session will be postponed until next Sunday.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly went on to say: I would point out to the esteemed Majlis deputies and local and foreign media correspondents that we have had a great deal of debate on the hostages in two previous closed sessions.

But all the world should know that it is America and its other friends and associates who have had a hand in bringing about the war and provocations in the region, and they still do. Precisely at the moment when we were scheduled to raise the discussion of the Special Commission considering the status of the hostages, in the early hours of the morning the defenseless people of Dezful were rolled in blood and dust with surface-to-surface missiles, converting the war from a military posture to horrendous blows, namely attacking civilians and angering the Iranian people and the Majlis. We must admit that America has received many blows and will not calm down easily, and its provocations against this nation will always continue.

Hojjat ol-Eslam [Rafsanjani], continuing his remarks, said: I declare that the issue of the hostages has nothing to do with the Iran-Iraq war and the Americans should bear in mind that these last-ditch actions and improper interferences relating to the destiny of this nation will not remain unanswered or without response.

Khalkhali Attack on Absentees

NC300850 Paris AFP in English 0830 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Excerpts] Tehran, 30 Oct (AFP)--A public debate by Iran's parliament expected to decide the fate of the American hostages was blocked today by a few members who boycotted the decisive session and prevented a quorum from being reached.

Before today's session was suspended, Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, the former chief judge of the revolutionary courts, pronounced a diatribe against those blocking the hostage decision.

The ayatollah, who lost his turban as he bounced onto the speaker's rostrum, shouted: "Why don't those men want to come into the session? Those who have something to say should say it. "We are in the middle of a war. People are dying yet those members are ridiculing parliament. They should not do that because this is not the shah's parliament."

Speaker Rafsanjani also seemed impatient to get the debate started. But before suspending the session he tried to sooth those furious over the boycott by saying the boycotters were "merely reacting against America's crimes."

Most members leaving the Majlis (parliament) said the 20 holdouts wanted to delay a decision on the 52 hostages held since last Nov. 4 until after the Nov. 4 U.S. presidential election.

Some members predicted that a quorum could be obtained on Sunday by recalling a score of MP's who were fighting Iraq on the battlefront.

But one member forecast: "The same thing will happen on Sunday."

SWEDISH RADIO INTERVIEWS KHALKHALI ON HOSTAGE SOLUTION

LD291836 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1700 GMT 29 Oct 80

[From the "Radio Magazine" program]

[Text] We have a report from our correspondent in Tehran. The Iranian Majlis will not set harder conditions for the freeing of the American hostages, in other words harder than those Ayatollah Khomeyni has already set and the United States already partly fulfilled.

This is stated by Ayatollah Khalkhali, who is one of the hard-liners in the religious leadership of Iran. He says this in a telephone interview which our correspondent Agnetha Ramberg had with him during the parliamentary debate underway just now concerning the hostages in Tehran.

[Begin recording] We want the hostages to be freed before the presidential elections in the United States. We (?shall not) talk so much about Carter's electoral purposes. What happens in reality is that Carter is generous now. This was stated by Ayatollah Khalkhali in our telephone interview a moment ago. Khalkhali is the first of the Iranian parliamentarians to speak openly about the secret debates in parliament, and what he says confirms the indications that the parliament will follow a relatively moderate line, that it will supply further details to the four demands already set by the religious leader, Ayatollah Khomeyni, and which the United States has announced that it will accept in principle. Khalkhali also confirms that there are others besides the moderate circles around President Bani-Sadr who want the release of the hostages before the American presidential elections next Tuesday, not because all or even a majority of them perhaps want to help Carter win the elections, but because now Iran stands to gain the most in exchange for the hostages.

The Majlis' Special Hostage Commission held an afternoon session here in order to include in its original report the views of the Majlis members before what Ayatollah Khalkhali at least believes will be the decisive final debate on the hostage issue tomorrow morning. And it is obvious that there will be additions to Khomeyni's four conditions for the release, most of them in connection with what everyone here sees as the most important condition: the United States guarantee that it will not interfere in Iran's internal affairs. According to Khalkhali there will be one additional demand: that the United States actually hand over to Iran the weapons and spare parts which have already been bought and paid for but which have not been delivered. We know that the war will be long, Ayatollah Khalkhali says. Many will be killed if the United States does not give us the weapons we have already bought. We need spare parts now and, with regard to international relations, Carter must give them, just as the Soviet Union is giving Iraq decisive aid.

It seems now that the Iranian Majlis will advance relatively soft conditions for the release of the hostages, conditions which the United States may very well accept. For instance, the idea of demanding the withdrawal of U.S. Naval Forces from the Persian Gulf area in exchange for the hostages has, according to another source in the Majlis, already been rejected as too difficult to implement. And Ayatollah Khalkhali's statement now confirms the impression that a solution of the hostage affair may be near, even though it is still too early to speak about a speedy release of the hostages.

Agnetha Ramberg, Tehran. [end recording]

KHOMEYNI MEETS WITH IRANIAN LEADERSHIP 30 OCT

LD301122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] According to a PARS report, at 1100 Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly; Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, prime minister; Colonel Fakuri, minister of defense and commander of the air force; General Zahir Nezhad, commander of the ground forces; Morteza Reza'i, the commander of the guards corps; and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Montazeri and 'Ali Akbar Parvaresh, deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and members of the Supreme Defense Council, together with the governors of Abadan and Khuninshahr, as well as the commanders of the guards corps in these two cities and Rashidian and the representative of the people of Abadan in the Majlis, were received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to this report, at this meeting, which was also attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni [Imam Khomeyni's son], the latest developments on the fronts, especially on the southern fronts of the country, were discussed, At the end of this session, Dr Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, in an interview with the PARS correspondent concerning the battlefronts, said: Let us convene the session of the Supreme Defense Council today and the secretary of the council will give you the necessary information. The president added: In today's session, discussions were held concerning all domestic and foreign issues. Concerning the continuation of the war between Iran and Iraq, Dr Bani-Sadr said: So far as I can tell the condition of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has become much better since the beginning of this imposed war and its strength and capability have grown. We are quite hopeful of victory.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin [Rafsanjani], the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, also said concerning this session: Discussions were held concerning all the different issues and decisions were reached which we hope will affect the outcome of the war and we hope that we can make use of past experiences.

According to the same report, Prime Minister Raja'i said, concerning the issues discussed: In this meeting it was decided that the Supreme Defense Council should become more active and, God willing, it will increase its activities in the best possible way.

REPORTAGE ON ACTIVITIES OF PRESIDENT BANI-SADR

Inspection of Army in Khuzestan

LD291713 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1640 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] According to a Paris report Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, together with the commander of the ground forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, inspected the military preparedness of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Khuzestan Province. According to the report received in the course of this visit, which lasted some 3 hours, the president of the republic talked with the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region. During the visit military successes were described and the president of the republic and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued the necessary instructions.

Visit to Khuzestan Workplaces

LD292156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president of the republic and the commander in chief of the armed forces, visited various sections of a repair workshop of one of the military bases in Khuzestan. The president chatted with workers while acquainting himself with the activities of the repair workshop.

In an interview with PARS at the conclusion of this visit Dr Bani-Sadr said: Some 80 persons or perhaps more stopped work and came over here. The very fact that these workers have ignored their own interests and have left a safe place for a very dangerous area in order to help the armed forces is indicative of the fact that for such people neither death nor defeat exists. The president of the republic added: This is just one example, and I witness daily a great many of these examples everywhere.

Just as our soldiers, guards and our air force, ground and naval forces are acting with self-sacrifice, our people are also practicing self-denial and are helping us.

The president of the republic also said: All this demonstrates that the war is a people's war in the truest sense of the phrase--that is, the people are participating in it with their hearts and souls. If a person spent his days and nights with such people he would feel that the time he spent with them was all too short. In conclusion, the president of the republic gave the following reminder: In a nation which is endowed with such morale and self-denial, there is no reason whatsoever for anyone to doubt its victory.

Return to Tehran

LD301208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, returned to Tehran this morning, following an inspection tour of the fronts of the war imposed by the Iraqi Ba'thists.

According to a report by a PARS correspondent, during the president's trip to the war-fronts, which lasted more than 2 weeks, the president, in the course of Supreme Defense Council sessions, reviewed the situation on the fronts.

While supervising and following the operations by the personnel of the armed forces in confronting and facing the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries, he inspected warfronts, several areas in Khuzestan and technical installations of the armed forces. He also held talks with the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the visit to Khuzestan by the president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, several foreign ambassadors in the Islamic Republic of Iran met and held talks with him, and discussed and exchanged views regarding the recent clashes between Iraq and Iran.

PRIME MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH DPRK AMBASSADOR

LD291216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] Relations between Iran and the DPRK were discussed in a meeting between the DPRK ambassador in Tehran and Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i. In this meeting, held last night, Prime Minister Raja'i, addressing the DPRK ambassador, said: As you know, ours is an ideological revolution; to us our principle is contained in our revolution. We can only cooperate with you as long as the authenticity of our revolution is maintained.

According to a PARS correspondent, during the meeting, which lasted more than an hour, the Islamic Republic of Iran's prime minister said: I am familiar to some extent with relations between the DPRK and Iran and do understand them. However, it is your stand vis-a-vis the country from which we wish to remain independent which is more important than anything else. In many respects we consider this country to be America. We have heard that you are to some extent self-reliant; if this is true, then we can hope to take certain joint steps in the interest of our peoples in the future. As you know, ours is an ideological revolution, and, as you know, our ideology is independent of the ideology pursued by the big power, our northern neighbor. What is important to us is to expand our ideology in the society, to be (?independent) of dependence on a country, where an ideology is in force. [sentence as heard] To us, our principle is contained in the revolution, for this revolution is both our capital and aim. Consequently, we can only cooperate with you as long as the genuineness of the revolution, which depends solely on us, is maintained.

Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i said:

As prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, what I say is divorced from any diplomatic niceties; the basis of relations between us is what is said right here. As for our relations, we shall accept whatever you can offer us in making us self-reliant, and can accept this as a revolutionary proposal. It is this principled cooperation which contributes to the building of countries. You should make an offer which we can feel assured will not lead to dependence; rather, it would result in self-reliance for our people.

Mr Raja'i then added: At present we are facing three specific problems. The first problem is the war; the second problem is reconstruction after the war, and the third problem is the implementation of projects which ought to be handled in accordance with revolutionary standards in our country.

On the basis of what I have explained, I would like very much to learn about your country's experiences with each of these problems, so that, if necessary, we can make use of them.

The DPRK ambassador replied: I entirely agree with what you have said. We want independence and will not permit any country to interfere in our internal affairs, as we oppose this and know that it is America that is the enemy of our nation, that all our miseries began with the occupation of South Korea by American. He concluded: We are very rich in the agricultural and industrial fields and can offer increased cooperation with you.

FARHANG: RAJA'I OVERRULING BANI-SADR DECISIONS

LD301233 Kuwait KUNA in English 1142 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] Tehran, 30 Oct (KUNA)--The Iranian head of state Thursday appeared to have been stripped of all his "constitutional privileges" after his appointed Moslem fundamentalist premier, Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, gave a ruling that "all official letters and programs" of Abolhasan Bani-Sadr should necessarily be "approved and endorsed" by the prime minister.

Mansur Farhang, Iran's former representative to the United Nations and now political adviser to President Bani-Sadr, protesting against this ambitious move by Premier Raja'i, said the president elected by an overwhelming majority was stopped from sending a delegate to North Korea to represent him at the sixth annual conference of the Labor Party in that country.

The protest made by Farhang today appeared on the front page of Bani-Sadr's newspaper, the daily ENQELAB-E ESLAMI.

The Foreign Ministry refused to grant a "diplomatic passport" to the delegate nominated by Bani-Sadr saying the request made by the president should be duly endorsed by the prime minister, Farhang said.

The representative of Bani-Sadr could not proceed to North Korea because the delegate refused to submit his papers to the prime minister for approval, he added.

President Bani-Sadr, who is also the supreme commander of the Iranian Armed Forces, was stopped from inviting an American journalist who played an important role in exposing the deposed shah and his secret police--SAVAK--in the American media. This time the request made by Iranian head of executive machinery was turned down by the Ministry of National guidance, Farhang, in his protest, said.

Bani-Sadr also wanted to invite all foreign journalists following the Iran-Iraq conflict but the ruling Islamic Republican Party (IRP) overruled his decision, saying it was not in the interest of Iran to invite the foreign press at this critical juncture.

However, the Foreign Ministry issued visas to some of the journalists from Japan, Italy and Latin American and North African countries.

PARIS MAGAZINE INTERVIEWS IRANIAN UN REPRESENTATIVE

LD291137 Paris AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI in Arabic 27 Oct-1 Nov 80 p 22

[Raghidah Dirgham interview with head of Iranian UN delegation Dr 'Ali Shams Ardekani in New York--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] What does Iran want from the Security Council since Mr Raja'i submitted nothing?

[Answer] Iran does not have to ask for anything from the council. The council has duties toward peace and the laws are clear with regard to attack, the imposition of solutions by force of arms and the seizure of land. The council can easily decide that the [Iraqi] aggression was a violation of the UN Charter and its principles and must therefore be rejected. In any case we do not care much whether the council says or does not say that Iraq is an aggressor. What is important is that the council must decide that the aggressor should withdraw and if it cannot do that it makes no difference and will make no difference to us; we will take care of the matter ourselves and need nobody's help.

[Question] But does Iran not care what international organizations such as the United Nations, the nonaligned group and the Islamic countries say?

[Answer] Why should we care as long as these organizations have offered nothing? Only when the major powers want something will these organizations offer it.

[Question] Why then did Mr Raja'i come to the United Nations?

[Answer] In order to test the effectiveness of the United Nations. There is a clear defect in its charter. Iraq was the first to take up arms in order to solve the area's problems. Iraq has abrogated the treaty, which is against international custom. Meanwhile, Iraq is boasting about killing our people and destroying our towns. If the United Nations claims that it preserve peace and justice then this is the field to test this ability. I believe that the Iranian fighters are right: The United Nations is only a facade and a sham that can do nothing.

Speaking about the question of the hostages, Ambassador Ardekani said:

"The holding of the hostages was an action taken by the Iranian people. The hostages are not with the government, which will not solve the problem by opening fire on the students."

He added: "The government has power over the students but what is important in Iran first and foremost are the people. The people must obtain convincing answers and as long as the people are not convinced, the government will not take any steps. It is true that the Majlis is now responsible for deciding the fate of the hostages but it represents the people and its members were popularly elected. The students will accept the Majlis decision, whatever it may be."

[Question] What is the significance of the two conditions set by Mr Raja'i: the withdrawal of the AWACS planes from Saudi Arabia and the reassessment of U.S.-Jordanian relations. Do these conditions for the release of the hostages still stand?

[Answer] The Iranian Majlis has not set conditions. Mr Raja'i was expressing his own views. But these two clauses might appear in the Majlis conditions.

As far as we know, we cannot imagine King Husayn moving without U.S. blessing. The shah, who was himself an agent, did not dare to move on his own. So why should this man do so? With regard to the planes, our stand is that Iran is not threatening Saudi Arabia, so why should it need these planes?

We were in the course of solving the hostage problem even before the war broke out. What we tell the United States is that we know that it is participating in the war on the Iraqi side and that it is not neutral.

[Question] What are the reasons for your hostility toward the Gulf countries?

[Answer] We are not against Iraq or the other Gulf countries. Their problems are among themselves. But when a minority rules the majority in any country, unrest is generated. This is not our problem and we have nothing to do with it. In my opinion the strength of the neighboring countries in the future lies in the people choosing their own government. It is Iraq which is interfering in the affairs of neighboring countries. In Kuwait they kidnap people and open fire on embassies, including our embassy, on which they fired an RPG projectile. They bring pressure to bear on neighboring countries and put the blame on us. When Saddam Husayn speaks about the continuing Kurdish problem, was it us who put the Kurds where they are?

[Question] Iran says it is against the East and the West. It has good relations with Syria, which has concluded a treaty with the Soviet Union. How does Iran reconcile these two facts?

[Answer] The "Camp David" conspiracy is aimed against Syria, which is opposing it. What can Syria do? If it needs to turn to the devil for help then it must do so. There is no contradiction in our principled stand. Our friends are free to choose their friends. We say that Iran leans neither East nor West but our friends have a national duty and their own circumstances. Syria is confronting the Zionist entity.

Speaking about the PLO attitude toward the war, the Iranian ambassador declined to say that it is "relatively neutral." He said the PLO "is not neutral. The hearts of the Palestinians are bleeding now because the Iraqi Government has ensured for the Zionist entity all it wants. Iraq has expelled 40,000 persons because they are of Iranian origin. On the other hand, Israel expelled the Palestinians because it claims that the land is the land of its forefathers. Hence, it is the same mentality."

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON NONALIGNED MISSION

NC300939 Paris AFP in English 0921 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Excerpt] Tehran, 30 Oct (AFP)--Iran is ready to welcome a proposed "good-will committee" from non-aligned nations on the Gulf war, if the committee first condemns Iraq's "invasion" of Iran, Deputy Foreign Minister Jamshid Haqgu said today.

But there was at this time nothing Iran could reasonably expect from any conciliation attempt, he added to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

So far there had been no official requests by committee members to visit Iran, he said.

Mr Haqgu was commenting on the setting up at the UN in New York on Tuesday of an ad hoc committee representing six countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to seek a solution to the 40-day-old conflict.

IRAQI IMAM CALLS FOR CONDEMNATION OF SADDAM HUSAYN

JN291853 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] The office of His Eminence scholar Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim issued a statement today appealing to all Muslims, owners of living consciences and international organizations to stand in the face of blasphemous Saddam's regime and prevent this infidel from committing his big crimes. The statement condemned the crimes of the infidel Saddam, who has carried out physical liquidations and massacres against the people.

The statement, which was carried by PARS, said: Reports coming in indicate that important events have taken place in the Iraqi cities, particularly in Baghdad and Basra. The reports also indicate that the infidel Saddam has killed more than 20,000 persons on the pretext of their resistance. Among the martyrs was Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ayatollah Seyyed Muhammad al-Haydari. The blasphemous regime of Saddam asked Ayatollah al-Haydari to deliver a speech attacking the Islamic Republic of Iran. When Al-Haydari refused to respond to this request, his food was poisoned, resulting in his martyrdom after 5 days.

The statement expressed condolences to and sympathy for the Iraqi Muslim people and urged the Iraqi people to be brave and establish God's rule. The statement added: We appeal to all the Muslims, owners of living consciences and international organizations to stand in the face of blasphemous Saddam, to prevent him from committing his big crimes and to work to emancipate the Iraqi Muslim people from this ordeal and the bloody massacres.

ARAB ARMY OF LEBANON COMMANDER EXPRESSES SUPPORT

JN291840 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] Brother Ahmad al-Khatib, commander of the Arab army of Lebanon, has sent a cable to the Iranian Government in which he expressed his full support for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the face of the aggressions of the criminal Ba'thist government in Iraq. He also expressed his readiness to dispatch his forces to Iran to fight against the blasphemous Ba'thist government.

Ahmad al-Khatib vowed to place all his information and media facilities at the disposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

PRISONERS ESCAPE FROM IRAQI JAIL TO AHVAZ

LD291810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] Please pay attention to a report just handed to me: According to a reliable report which the revolution guards corps in Khuzestan gave our correspondent in Ahvaz, prisoners in Al-'Amarah jail in Iraq have mutineed in their cells and broken down the prison gates. As a result, more than 1,500 prisoners escaped. Some of our guards brothers are among the escapees who are now housed in the central office of the guards corps in Ahvaz, but most are Iraqi mojahedin, Iranian Muslims captured in the war, and a number of Kuwaitis and Syrians.

This report has been confirmed by the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

FOREIGN JOURNALISTS' MOVEMENTS FURTHER RESTRICTED

LD301206 Kuwait KUNA in English 1037 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] Tehran, 30 Oct (KUNA)--The Iranian Government has clamped further tight security around the foreign journalists here saying their activities would from now on be directly controlled by the Supreme Defence Council.

The council in an announcement Wednesday said the press cards issued by the foreign press department of the Ministry of National Guidance should necessarily be endorsed by the press (?authority) of the Supreme Defence Council.

The decision was taken in view of the highly sensitive circumstances prevailing in the country, the announcement said.

Hundreds of foreign correspondents are waiting in Turkey, West Germany and other countries for entry visas which (?are issued) from Tehran only after the approval of the press departments of the Foreign Ministry and Ministry of National Guidance.

There is presently a very small number of foreign reporters in Tehran and only few were allowed to visit the war zone in the south of the country.

The Supreme Defence Council has also restricted the activities of Iran's local press, asking them not to publish exclusive reports and interviews without referring them to the authorities of the Defence Council.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUES 237-241

237: Fighting in Ahvaz, Ilam

LD291522 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Communique 237 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Combative, Muslim Iranian people: Your brother soldiers continue to battle against Ba'thist infidels from Islamic trenches and crush evil forces with the utmost galantry.

1. Since this morning units of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran inflicted considerable losses and casualties on the enemy of the Ahvaz front.

2. On the Susangerd front, on the Allaho Akbar heights and Dasht'e Azadegan, a great deal of damage was inflicted on the infidels, using helicopter gunships and artillery fire.

3. Beginning at 1000 today the mercenary enemy opened fire on Ahvaz until 1300 and inflicted damage on residential areas of the city causing the martyrdom of three defenseless people. Enemy fire was eventually silenced at 1300 by the heavy artillery batteries of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

4. In Ilam Province, too, from 0700 hours on 28 October, mercenary Iraqi forces were brought under heavy mortar fire by our own forces consisting of gendarmerie personnel, sacrificing brother guardsmen and a number of tribesmen of the combative 'Alavshahi tribe, who blocked the enemy advance by destroying the mortar emplacements of the infidel mercenaries and those manning them, as well as killing a number of God's enemies, and ultimately forced the mercenary Ba'thists in this region to withdraw.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

238: Shalamcheh Operations

LD291528 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1432 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Communique 238 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, following its successful operations which were brought to the attention of the Muslim nation of Iran in Communique 236, has gained other victories which are described below:

1. On the Shalamcheh axis, west of Khuninshahr [Khorramshahr], the aggressive enemy was attacked and several vehicles carrying fuel, a large quantity of ammunition and several armored vehicles of the infidel Ba'thists were destroyed. One of the enemy MiG's was fired on near the city of (Bashqalaveh) in Iraqi territory and crashed.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

239: Tupolevs Shot Down

LD291405 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1348 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Communique 239 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the crusher of the oppressors. The combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in their defense of the sanctity of the sky of our holy Islamic homeland succeeded this afternoon in shooting down two aggressive Iraqi Tupolev strategic bombers. One of the bombers was downed in Najafabad, near Esfahan, and the other near the city of blood and uprising, Qom, and six crew members of these two bombers were burned in the fire of Allah's punishment.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

240: Susangerd Operation

LD292110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2048 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Communique 240 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Combatant Muslim compatriots of Iran, your fighting brothers in the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army today, 29 October 1980, launched a bold assault on the aggressive enemy in the Susangerd area and, using artillery fire, destroyed 4 tanks, 14 heavy trucks, 6 field guns and an ammunition dump of the Iraqi Ba'th mercenary army and killed 45 troops of the forces of blasphemy.

241: Airborne Successes

LD301131 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Communique 241 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Combatant and Muslim Iranian compatriots: The fighters of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran continued their air warfare yesterday against the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries. The results of these battles are as follows:

1. The destruction of a number of tanks and vehicles in the Shalamcheh region;

2. The destruction of 10 tanks, 10 to 15 personnel carriers and 1 post in Fakkeh axis on the border strip;

3. The destruction of a number of military vehicles and tanks in (Jolfanieh) axis in Iraq and inside Iranian territory near the Fakkeh front;

4. The destruction of two posts and two trucks and a complex of enemy forces in the Sublih axis; and

5. The destruction of a complex of enemy vehicles and personnel carriers to the west of Nahr-e Anbar post.

The activities of the Airborne Division in supporting the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Shush district and Charkheh region are as follows:

1. Killing 40 enemy personnel; and

2. The destruction of 12 vehicles, and a number of enemy fortifications and 1 gun belonging to the forces of the infidel Saddam.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

REPORTAGE ON FIGHTING IN ABADAN-KHUNINSHAHR AREA

Abadan Refinery Fire

LD291749 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] PARS reported this afternoon from Abadan that the Islamic revolution guards and the brave young people of Abadan, during five surprise attacks yesterday, killed a large number of aggressive mercenaries of the infidel Saddam on the Abadan-Mahshahr axis and destroyed a number of enemy personnel carriers, field camps, tanks and fuel tankers.

According to a reliable source in the Abadan governor's office, the attacks of the defenders of the Islamic revolution against the aggressive enemy were so sudden and well planned that the Iraqi Ba'thist infidels were unable to mount a counterattack for many hours.

According to the PARS report, this afternoon Abadan was unsettled and the Iraqi mercenaries several times attacked the city with mortar fire and khamsah-khamsah [fifty-five] guns. The PARS correspondent in Abadan reported this afternoon that a part of the Abadan refinery was set on fire as the result of mortar fire.

According to this report the Muslim fighters responded to the enemy fire and at the time this report was sent both sides were continuing their artillery fire. The same report indicates that this afternoon and evening on the Abadan-Ahvaz road axis, near the village of (Marek), the Muslim fighters were returning the artillery fire of the aggressive enemy. According to the reports received from there a number of casualties have been inflicted upon enemy forces.

Iraqi Advance on Khuninshahr Halted

LD291728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] According to a report received at 1800 today from Abadan, at 1330 a few Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force aircraft destroyed the positions of the infidel Iraqi Ba'thist aggressors on the Khuninshahr [Khorramshahr] and Abadan fronts. A report received from Khuninshahr also indicates that the brave dfenders of the Islamic revolution of Iran and the fighting popular forces have blocked the enemy's advance.

According to the same report, the penetration of the enemy via the connecting bridge between Abadan and Khuninshahr has been completely stopped and the batteries of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have smashed the enemy positions on the other side of Karun River. Around Abadan the battle between the artillery of the brave and self-sacrificing fighters of Islam and the mercenary forces of Saddam continues, while the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the guards corps of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the brave, popular forces of the martyr-nurturing city of Abadan today achieved some victories.

A central news bureau report from Abadan also indicates that the infidel Iraqi Ba'thists fired at the residential areas of Abadan today, but no accurate figures of casualties are available.

Shelling of Abadan

LD300424 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] The PARS NEWS AGENCY, quoting a reliable official in the governor's office in Abadan, has reported: From last night until 0200 today the Iraqi Ba'thist artillery continued to bring the residential areas in Abadan under their fire. As a result of these attacks, several people were martyred in various areas in Abadan. The combative and revolution-defending forces in defense of the Islamic Republic of Iran returned the fire of the blasphemous mercenaries.

This report adds that the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the brother guards and the combative and valiant people are still guarding the bridge linking Khuninshahr [Khorramshahr] with Abadan in the eastern sector of Khuninshahr and are shelling the enemy positions.

Forces Control East Khuninshahr

LD301206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1042 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] Correspondents of the Central News Bureau and PARS report that last night the residential areas of Abadan were fired upon by the American Saddamists' artillery several times during the night. The same report says that last night a few residential areas in various parts of the city were damaged as a result of the mortar and khamsah-khamsah [fifty-five] fire of the Ba'thist mercenaries. Also last night the Iraqi aggressors once again tried to tighten the siege of the city by making use of the darkness to advance toward the city of Abadan. However, the self-sacrificing fighters of Islam prevented with complete vigilance any enemy movement and smashed the positions of Saddam's mercenaries with their artillery fire.

At the same time the defenders of the land of the Islamic revolution fired on the Iraqi mercenaries on the Abadan-Ahvaz road axis and bravely replied to enemy fire. As a result of Muslim fighters' fire numerous casualties have been inflicted on the Iraqi mercenaries.

According to the same report, the fighters of Islam have complete control of the eastern part of Khuninshahr [Khorramshahr], and while keeping a watch on the activities of the oppressors they are valiantly preventing the advance of the enemy in this area, preventing their penetration to the bridge linking Khuninshahr and Abadan and smashing their positions with their heavy artillery.

The fighters of the tribal mobilization, who have been continuing their effort shoulder to shoulder with the rest of self-sacrificing fighters in the last few days, have installed a number of loudspeakers in various places outside the city of Abadan and sent messages calling on the Iraqi forces to surrender.

29 OCT ANNOUNCEMENTS TO AHVAZ CITIZENS REPORTED

Red Alert Warning

GF291525 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1520 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] This is Ahvaz, Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dear listeners, please pay attention: The siren you will hear indicates the red alert condition. This means an air raid is imminent. [sound of siren]

[Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian repeated this announcement at 1605 GMT]

Announcement on 'Cowards,' Duties

GF291535 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Announcement issued by the oil industry resistance headquarters on 29 October]

[Excerpts] Dear brothers and sisters of Ahvaz: Nothing is more important to the enemy than the evacuation of the trenches by the opposition. The biggest element of resistance is the people--people and their faith, their resistance and their love for the revolution and the country. Nothing is better or more valuable to us than defending our bases and trenches, the trenches that will determine our future history, the trenches that must be preserved so our revolution can be preserved and our Islam and honor saved.

People who are dear to the imam, it has been observed that a group of army personnel and [word indistinct] are transferring themselves to other cities. They are resorting to every trick to avoid a confrontation with the enemy. Have they ever asked themselves what shame will follow desertion in the face of the enemy? Have they ever thought about how they will face the families of the martyrs when the war is over? Have they ever thought--when the war is over and we are victorious--about resuming life among people and next to the fighters, many of whom gave up their lives and belongings? What right do they assume for themselves? How will they be judged against the blood that has been spilled so far?

Dear brothers and sisters: You know that the main front of resistance against the enemy is the front in the cities and villages and the fronts outside cities and villages. [as heard] It is up to all of us to never desert the main fronts, which are the cities and the villages, even though we may be killed or die on these fronts. If we believe in God, the day of judgment and the promises of God, we must know that it does not make any difference where we are when our time to die comes.

What is more beneficial, safer or more glorious than the trenches? The faithful must stay and fight and resist until the enemy has been completely annihilated. Have you forgotten the great lesson of Imam Hoseyn, who brought his family closer to the enemy?

God only knows how our nation, following our imminent and glorious victory, will deal with these people, these cowards, these chickenhearted beings who encourage people to escape and themselves seek hiding places like jackals and have accepted any shame for this.

While inviting all the combatant people of the cities and villages to resist, we ask them to pay attention to these points:

1. We ask all faithful bazaar merchants and shopowners to keep their shops open and maintain normal business, since your reward is the same as the Mojahedin fighting the war.

2. All managers and directors of offices and factories must make arrangements so the workers will go to work.

3. Strengthen the street trenches and maintain battle readiness.

4. Those who know how to operate war equipment should contact the resistance headquarters in order to be more active in defending the cities. If they do not have any knowledge of military matters, they must enroll in classes to learn.

ANNOUNCEMENTS TO BUSHEHR CITIZENS REPORTED

Callup of Draftees

GF291143 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 0822 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Communique issued by Bushehr Gendarmerie Regiment--no date given]

[Text] In His exalted name. We hereby announce to all draft-age male conscripts born between 21 March 1959 and 20 March 1960 who reside in Bushehr and surrounding areas that they should report to this regiment. Therefore, taking into consideration the present situation of our beloved Islamic homeland, all persons born on the above dates are requested:

1. Those who have already registered should report on 16 November 1980;

2. Those who have not registered should report as soon as possible.

It is evident that those who do not report at specified dates will be considered as absentees and will be dealt with according to the article 60 of the draft regulation.

[Signed] Commander of Bushehr Gendarmerie Regiment

Downing of MiG

LD300358 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] According to an informed official at the governor general's office in Bushehr, today at 0500 several aggressive Iraqi MiG's violated Bushehr's airspace. Before it could manage to drop bombs, one aggressive MiG was shot down by the fire of the air defense of the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The rest were forced to flee.

REPORTAGE ON SITUATION IN KERMANSHAH-ILAM REGION

Battle Report

LD281810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Oct 80

[Text] According to a report received from fronts in the western parts of the country, fighting continues between Islam's heroic forces and Saddam's mercenary infidels. The report indicates that during the past 24 hours the imam's devotees [fedaiyan-e] and our brother rangers and guards of the Islamic revolution, carrying out a series of successful operation, killed over 330 Iraqi Ba'th aggressive mercenaries and routed an enemy transport battalion in one of the mountainous regions on the western front. The same report indicates that during the past 24 hours seven 81-mm enemy mortars were captured by the fighting forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The report concluded by saying that the warriors of Islam, displaying matchless heroism and valor during the past 3 days, pushed back the mercenary enemy by 18 km and, embarking on planned operations, smashed enemy positions one after another. Following repeated heroic assaults by our heroic fighters, the Iraqi infidel mercenaries fled, leaving their weapons behind.

The report indicates that, following a successful attack by the Islamic revolution's defenders yesterday, an enemy arms depot in the (Ramzi) region was set on fire and the flames were still visible hours later.

From 2100 yesterday, in reply to enemy artillery fire, batteries of the Army of the Islamic Republic fired back, and destroyed several enemy positions in the country's western regions.

Along the Gilan-e Gharb axis, too, the valiant forces of Islam, launching a series of lightning attacks on Iraqi territory, killed a number of Iraqi Ba'th aggressors and also destroyed three enemy tanks. During these operations a number of weapons belonging to the Iraqi infidels were captured by the fighters of the Islamic Republic. A report from Ilam indicates that several helicopters belonging to the Iraqi Ba'th mercenary army, which were to encroach on Iranian territory, came under fire from batteries of the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and an encroaching enemy helicopter was shot down in the Mehran region. According to the report, the pilot of the encroaching enemy helicopter was captured by the defenders of Iran's Islamic revolution and handed over to the responsible authorities in Ilam.

Operations in Ilam, Other Fronts

LD291809 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1648 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Excerpt] Quoting an Ilam Gendarmerie official, the Central News Bureau's correspondent in Ilam reports: Yesterday the batteries and mortars of the valiant Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the fighting forces of the Iranian Gendarmerie in the Mehran region destroyed six artillery pieces belonging to the aggressive enemy in the village of (Fartaq) in Iraq and killed a large number of the Ba'thist mercenaries; the rest of the mercenaries vanished.

According to reports which we have received, the battle waged by the heroes of the Islamic revolution's homeland on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Qasr-e Shirin, Gilan-e Gharb, Kan-e Shahr, Shur-e Shirin, Sumar and Zardeh fronts, raging since yesterday with heavy weapons and artillery fire, continues with the defenders of the revolution holding the initiative.

Air Raids on Gilan-e Gharb

JN300817 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] Using their various weapons, fighters of the Islamic Republic of Iran shelled enemy positions yesterday in several areas on the Pol-e Zahab-Qasr-e Shirin axis.

Reports from the battlefronts indicate that until 2230 last night, our fighters were still shelling the enemy positions. The enemy's losses as a result of these attacks were as follows: Two trucks loaded with ammunition and hardware and two oil tanks were destroyed; four of the atheist enemy mercenaries were killed; and, one of the agent Ba'thist forces' strategic outposts was completely wiped out.

Our correspondent in Kermanshah has reported that several Iraqi MiG's flew over Gilan-e Gharb yesterday morning and strafed residential areas. The barbaric raids, which can only be expected from the Iraqi criminals, resulted in the destruction of 8 houses and in serious damage to 21 others. The enemy air raids also resulted in the martyrdom of one citizen and in the wounding of four others.

The correspondent added that the clashes between the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the aggressive Ba'thist regime's mercenaries were still raging violently at midnight last night. Our forces have killed 12 mercenaries.

Qasr-e Shirin Fighting

LD301158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] Yesterday the fighters of the Islamic Republic of Iran again brought a number of enemy positions under fire in the battle zone at the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Qasr-e Shirin axis.

According to the report received from Kermanshah, yesterday afternoon on the battlefronts of Qasr-e Shirin and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab the valiant fighting brothers of the Islamic forces started their onslaught against the enemy forces with the call of "God is Great" and inflicted heavy and irreparable damage upon the forces of blashphemy. During this brave attack, the enemy command post at (Band-Dastak) was completely destroyed.

According to the latest reports received from Kermanshah, until 2030 last night a severe clash took place between the artillery of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iraqi aggressive forces at the Gilan-e Gharb axis. Twelve Iraqi mercenaries were killed in this region and a great quantity of ammunition and war material belonging to the mercenary forces of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime were seized by the forces of Islam.

SHIRAZ MEDICAL GROUP SENDS DOCTORS TO FRONT

GD291650 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 29 Oct 80

[Text] The Fars health department's coordination committee for medical operations has issued its report on operations from 10-24 October 1980. The report concerns medical aid for the brave fighters in the battle zones. According to the report, 28 doctors and specialists, nurses, auxiliary nurses, doctor's aids and technicians, as well as 18 ambulances and a quantity of medicine and medical instruments were sent to the southern and western fronts during this period.

The Shiraz tourist Hotel has been equipped to allow the wounded to recuperate, and 500 insured people from Khuzestan have been treated in the province's hospitals and clinics.

A group has been sent to Ahvaz to investigate the feasibility of sending an army field hospital to the Ahvaz front.

BAZARGAN LIKENS PRESENT GOVERNMENT TO PAHLAVI REGIME

LD301128 Kuwait KUNA in English 1022 GMT 30 Oct 80

[Text] Tehran, 30 Oct (KUNA)--Iran's first post-revolutionary prime minister, Mehdi Bazargan, Thursday rapped the Islamic revolutionary government [words indistinct] "the old oppression and suffocation still ruled the iranian society".

"If any kind of freedom is still [word indistinct] it was because of the lack of centralization of power and the chaos in general," Bazargan said.

The three slogans--independence, freedom and the Islamic Republic--which toppled the Pahlavi regime--have lost their meaning after the revolution, Bazargan in an article published by leading morning daily MIZAN said.

Drawing a sharp comparison between the Pahlavi regime and the Islamic government, Bazargan said [words indistinct] branded as imperialist, liberal, revolutionary, American or SAVAK agents and collaborators.

The political opponents were purged from government organizations and newspapers and their properties confiscated without giving them any chance to defend themselves, he said.

He accused the Islamic judges and their Islamic guards of violating (?the spirit) of Islam and added there was no freedom of speech and press in the iranian society today.

The situation in the Islamic assembly (parliament) was almost the same, he added.

The only difference between the Pahlavi regime and the Islamic government is that the oppression applied by the police was now replaced by [words indistinct], Bazargan said.

SRI LANKA

BANDARANAIKE SUSPECTS GOVERNMENT MOVE FOR U.S. BASE

BK300333 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 22 Oct 80 p 1

[From K.K. Sharma]

[Text] Colombo, 21 Oct--Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who has been deprived of her civic rights by the Sri Lanka Government, suspects that the USA has been given rights to establish a naval base at Trincomalee and that President J.R. Jayewardene is opting out of non-alignment.

The former prime minister told me in an interview that 2,500 acres in Sri Lanka's main security zone around Trincomalee had been leased to an American firm for the ostenisible purpose of setting up a refinery. "We do not have any oil, we already have a refinery, so why do we need another refinery?" said Mrs Bandaranaike. The U.S. interest in Asia was growing and she feels it is not satisfied with Diego Garcia. "I think they would be happier with Trincomalee".

Why was President Jayewardene doing this? "He wants Western aid. He desperately needs money to deal with the economic crisis he has plunged the country into. Nobody else will give him money because he has mismanaged the economy," Mrs Bandaranaike said, adding that the entire non-aligned world should be warned about the Sir Lanka Government's moves. India was directly threatened, she said.

Describing the action against her in depriving her of her civic rights as a "heinous crime", Mrs Bandaranaike claimed that soon after he was elected in 1977, Mr Jayawardene offered her the post of minister of foreign affairs in his cabinet. "If I was fit to be a cabinet minister then, why am I now being punished? But I refused because I did not want to be part of Mr Jayewardene's capitalist government. I want to carry out the socialist policies of my late husband", Mrs Bandaranaike said. Besides, every democracy needs a strong opposition. She thinks that the action against her was taken because she was the government's most powerful opponent "and this government wants to stifle all opposition", but she has not yet formulated a strategy to cope with the situation. She has been barred from taking part in any electoral process and although "I do not mind going to jail", Mrs Bandaranaike says she must place the interests of her Sri Lanka Freedom Party above her own interests. She is confident of winning the next election in 1983 but is not sure of the two-thirds majority that the party needs to withdraw the punishment inflicted on her.

"What has happened to me follows a pattern in Asia. First Mujib went, then it was Mrs Gandhi's turn (though she has not come back), then Bhutto was killed and now it is my turn", said Mrs Bandaranaike looking somewhat pensive. She is determined to fight on. "I refuse to bow out of politics", she said. But she is obviously bitter about the treatment meted out to her. "Is this the way to treat a person who has been in Parliament for 20 years out of which she was prime minister for 12 years? I brought world attention to Sri Lanka and its prestige was high when I was prime minister", she said.

Mrs Bandaranaike said she had kept Mrs Gandhi informed of events in Sri Lanka and claimed that the Indian prime minister had expressed serious convern over the events here. Mrs Gandhi had not given any advice but had told her how she herself had dealt with the situation that she faced in India, obviously to enable Mrs Bandaranaike to take a lesson. "Let them make a martyr of me. The people have shown that they are behind me and this makes the government afraid", she said. The least that the government could have done was to have held a referendum on the action against her, Mrs Bandaranaike said. "If the people had said I should go, I would have no hesitation to go, but the government ignored both me and the people", she added.

Mrs Bandaranaike was strongly critical of the "mess" that the present government had taken Sir Lanka into. "They were elected to deal with unemployment and the economic situation not to take part in a witch hunt". She accused the government of mortgaging the future of Sri Lanka to the West since the country could never repay the heavy loans taken. All these were being used for political purposes and " a small coterie of people have become multimillionaires while the condition of the country has sharply deteriorated."

COLOMBO SUN URGES RECONSIDERATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY DECISION

BK251056 Colombo SUN in English 16 Oct 80 p 7

[Editorial: "No Nuke Please"]

[Text] Some eminent Lankan scientists have quite rightly pointed out the futility of accepting nuclear energy as an alternative power source in the country. They have sent a memorandum to the prime minister urging the government to reconsider a recent Cabinet decision to give the green light to nuke power.

What these scientists contend should be viewed with utmost seriousness. Proliferation of nuclear power usually go hand in glove with threatening hazards. Prevention of accidents involves equally high costs as the particular power source itself. Not every scientist will sound a doomsday warning about the use of nuclear energy. On the contrary most scientific egg-heads swear by its efficacies as a miracle for high-speed national development and race towards sophisticated progress and modernisation. They fail to see the other side of the coin through the same prejudicial telescope. No wonder nuclear policies have become high politics in most countries, particularly in the industrialised north.

The memorandum to the prime minister is specific about certain salient impediments. It has underlined uncertainties about the economic safety, health and ecological factors relating to nuclear reactors. All these aspects have been met with pro and contrary arguments at various international levels, yet there is no foolproof and convincing argument why nuclear energy could be accepted as the ideal alternative for a power crisis.

A global crusade has been launched by interested transnationals to propagate the use of nuclear power by Third World countries. They obviously have nonaltruistic objectives based mainly on commercialism. As long as their technologies are sold they would be satisfied.

Mistakes that have already been made and the near disasters that have been averted at great costs provide good reasons to think more seriously before Lanka opts to go nuclear. The colossal investment is something that Lanka could ill afford besides the disadvantages.

Lanka is endowed with better natural resources that have yet to be exploited. For instance, the hydropower capacities of the country are under-utilised. Its exploitation would relatively be cheaper. It is also not an alien technology like nuclear energy. The main raw material for hydropower is available in our rivers and streams whereas uranium, heavy water and the fission processes as well as the primary components for the reactors must be imported at heavy costs.

Once we are hooked on nuke power the industrialised nations and their transnational corporations can hold us to ransom like what the OPEC is doing right now. It would then be like falling from a burning oil can to the fire. The ecological dangers and the casualty factor of nuclear systems are rather high. Whether Lanka is geared to face such a challenge is doubtful. Right now the country is illequipped even to fight a common house fire. How a nuclear syndrome could be overcome is anybody's guess.

NEPAL

PRIME MINISTER GREETS NEW SOVIET PREMIER TIKHONOV

BK241512 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 24 Oct 80

[Text] Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa has sent a message of hearty congratulations to Nikolay Tikhonov on his appointment as chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

In the message Thapa said that he felt confident that the relations so happily subsisting between Nepal and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics would be further strengthened during the tenure of office of Tikhonov.

KING, QUEEN RETURN FROM VISIT TO THAILAND

BK271524 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 27 Oct 80

[Excerpt] Their majesties the king and queen returned home this evening after completing a week-long private visit to Thailand. During their majesties' stay in Thailand, his majesty the king had undergone a general medical examination in Bangkok.

BRIEFS

CYPRIOT ENVOY TO NEPAL--Katmandu, 15 Oct--Mr Andros A. Nicolaides has been appointed as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cyprus to the Kingdom of Nepal, the Foreign Ministry said in a press release, reports RSS. [Text] [Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 15 Oct 80 p 1 BK]

INDIAN ENVOY TO BHUTAN--Salman Haidar, ambassador of India in Bhutan, presented his credentials to the king of Bhutan on 20 October 1980. Replying to the Indian ambassador's speech, the king said: "We deeply appreciate the generous assistance and cooperation extended to us for our socioeconomic development during the past 2 decades. I am confident that with such assistance and goodwill of the people and government of India we will continue making further progress in accomplishing our national aspiration." [Text] [Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1452 GMT 29 October 80 BK]